

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A powered appliance for use by an operator, the powered appliance comprising:
 - a working member;
 - a handle coupled to the working member; and
 - a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a second position distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least reduced, wherein one of the handle and the control is configured to at least partially receive the other of the handle and the control prior to compression of the handle or the control when in the first position and wherein at least one of the handle and the control includes a flexible material adjacent the other of the handle and the control, the flexible material being configured to deform under the normal amount of force the operator could continuously apply to the flexible material during the period of time the powered appliance would normally be used during one session, wherein the flexible material forms a channel configured to receive the other of the handle and the control prior to movement of the control to the first position.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the flexible material is compressible.
7. (Original) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein the flexible material is a foam.

8. (Original) The appliance of Claim 6, wherein said one of the handle and the control forms a channel configured to receive the other of the handle and the control.
9. (Original) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein said one of the handle and control forms a channel configured to receive the other of the handle and the control.
10. (Original) The appliance of Claim 9, wherein the handle forms the channel.
11. (Original) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the powered appliance comprises a lawnmower and wherein the working member comprises a blade.
12. (Original) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the control pivots between the first position and the second position.
13. (Original) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the control comprises a bale arm.
14. (Original) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein movement of the working member is cessated when the control is in the second position.
15. (Original) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein power to the working member is reduced when the control is in the second position.
16. (Original) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the control member is biased towards the second position.
17. (Currently Amended) An accessory for use with a powered appliance for use by an operator, the powered appliance having a working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a second position distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least reduced, the accessory comprising:

a body configured to be coupled to one of the handle and the control, the body being configured to at least partially receive the other of the handle and the control when in the first position, wherein the body includes a flexible portion adjacent the other of the handle

and the control, the flexible portion being configured to deform under the normal amount of force the operator could continuously apply to the flexible portion during the period of time the accessory would normally be used during one session, wherein the flexible portion forms a channel configured to receive the other of the handle and the control prior to movement of the control to the first position.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The accessory of Claim 17, wherein the flexible material is compressible.

22. (Original) The accessory of Claim 21, wherein the flexible material is selected from a group including: foam, flocked foam, cloth, flexible polymers, woven and non-woven fabrics, and various combinations thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) A powered appliance for use by an operator, the powered appliance comprising:

- a working member;
- a handle coupled to the working member; and
- a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a second position distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least reduced, wherein one of the handle and the control is configured to at least partially receive the other of the handle and the control prior to compression of the handle or the control when in the first position and wherein at least one of the handle and the control includes a compressible material adjacent the other of the handle and the control, the compressible material being configured to compress so as to occupy a reduced volume under the normal amount of force the operator could continuously apply to the compressible material during the period of time the powered appliance would normally be used during one session, wherein the compressible material forms a channel

configured to receive the other of the handle and the control prior to movement of the control to the first position.

24. (Currently Amended) An accessory for use with a powered appliance for use by an operator, the powered appliance having a working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a second position distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least reduced, the accessory comprising:

a body configured to be coupled to one of the handle and the control, the body being configured to at least partially receive the other of the handle and the control when in the first position, wherein the body includes a compressible portion adjacent the other of the handle and the control, the compressible portion being configured to compress so as to occupy a reduced volume under the normal amount of force the operator could continuously apply to the compressible portion during the period of time the accessory would normally be used during one session, wherein the compressible portion forms a channel configured to receive the other of the handle and the control prior to movement of the control to the first position.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for equipping and operating a powered appliance including a working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a second position distant to the handle in which movement of the working member is at least reduced, the method comprising:

providing a tube having a compressible outer surface, an inner cavity, and an opening communicating with the inner cavity, the compressible outer surface being configured to compress so as to occupy a reduced volume under the normal amount of force an operator of the powered appliance could continuously apply to the compressible outer surface during the period of time the powered appliance would normally be used during one session;

inserting one of the handle and the control through the opening into the inner cavity; and

moving the control to the first position adjacent the tube such that at least a portion of the control is within the opening and is surrounded by the outer surface.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the opening comprises a longitudinal slit.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the outer surface extends at least 120 degrees about the control after the control has been moved to the first position.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the outer surface extends at least 180 degrees about the control after the control has been moved to the first position.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the outer surface extends at least 270 degrees about the control after the control has been moved to the first position.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the first side includes means to prevent movement of the flexible member relative to the control and the handle.

36. (Currently Amended) A method for equipping and operating a powered appliance including a working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a second position distant to the handle in which movement of the working member is at least reduced, the method comprising:

providing a flexible member having a first end and a second opposite end, the flexible member being configured to deform under the normal amount of force an operator of

the powered appliance could continuously apply to the flexible member during the period of time the powered appliance would normally be used during one session;

wrapping the flexible member about one of the handle and the control;

securing the first and second ends relative to one another about said one of the handle and the control; and

moving the control to the first position adjacent the flexible member such that at least a portion of the control is surrounded by the flexible member, wherein the wrapping operation includes spacing the first and second ends from one another to form a gap therebetween and wherein the operation of moving the control includes positioning the other of the handle and the control within the gap.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein the outer surface extends at least 120 degrees about the control after the control has been moved to the first position.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein the outer surface extends at least 180 degrees about the control after the control has been moved to the first position.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein the outer surface extends at least 270 degrees about the control after the control has been moved to the first position.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The method of Claim 36, wherein the securing operation includes releasably coupling the first end to the second end.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 36, wherein the flexible member includes an inner surface and outer surface and wherein the securing operation includes adhering the inner surface to said one of the handle and the control.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 36, wherein the flexible member has an inner surface including means for preventing movement of the flexible member relative to said one of the handle and the control.

45. (Currently Amended) An accessory for use with a powered appliance having a working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a second position distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least reduced, the accessory comprising:

a body configured to be coupled to one of the handle and the control, the body being configured to at least partially receive the other of the handle and the control when in the first position, wherein the body has a compressible outer surface and a high friction inner surface configured to prevent movement of the body relative to said one of the handle and the control when the body is coupled to said one of the handle and the control, wherein the compressible outer surface forms a channel configured to receive the other of the handle and the control prior to movement of the control to the first position.

46. (Previously Presented) An accessory for use with a powered appliance having a working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control movable between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a second position distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least reduced, the accessory comprising:

a body configured to be coupled to one of the handle and the control, the body being configured to at least partially receive the other of the handle and the control when in the first position, wherein the body has a first end and a second opposite end and wherein the body is dimensioned such that the first and second ends are sufficiently spaced from one another to form a gap therebetween when the body is coupled to said one of the handle and the control, wherein the body and the gap are sized so that at least half of the other of the handle and the control is received within the gap when the control is in the first position.

47. (Currently Amended) An accessory for use with a powered appliance having a working member, a handle coupled to the working member, and a control movable between a

first position proximate the handle in which movement of the working member is permitted and a second position distant the handle in which movement of the working member is at least reduced, the accessory comprising:

a body configured to be coupled to one of the handle and the control, the body being configured to at least partially receive the other of the handle and the control when in the first position, wherein the body includes a first end and a second opposite end sufficiently spaced from one another to form a gap therebetween when the body is coupled to said one of the handle and the control, wherein the body and the gap are sized so that at least half of the other of the handle and the control is received within the gap when the control is in the first position and wherein the accessory further includes means for securing the first and second ends relative to one another about said one of the handle and the control in at least one direction.

48. (Original) The accessory of Claim 47, wherein the means for securing includes a first extension extending from the first end and a second extension extending from the second end and wherein the first extension and the second extension are configured to be directly coupled to one another.

49. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the flexible material is releasably coupled to the at least one of the handle and the control.

50. (Previously Presented) The appliance of Claim 49, wherein the flexible material has a first end and a second opposite end and wherein the flexible material is dimensioned such that the first and second ends are sufficiently spaced from one another to form a gap therebetween, the gap between the first end and the second end being less than the diameter of the at least one of the handle and the control.

51. (Previously Presented) The accessory of Claim 17, wherein the body has a first end and a second opposite end and wherein the body is dimensioned such that the first and second ends are sufficiently spaced from one another to form a gap therebetween when the body is coupled to said one of the handle and the control, the gap between the first and the second ends being less than the diameter of said one of the handle and the control.

52. (New) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the channel passes completely through the flexible material.

53. (New) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the flexible material has a thickness equal to or greater than a thickness of the other of the handle and the control received within the channel.

54. (New) The accessory of Claim 17, wherein the channel passes completely through the flexible portion.

55. (New) The accessory of Claim 17, wherein the flexible portion has a thickness equal to or greater than a thickness of the other of the handle and the control received within the channel.

56. (New) The appliance of Claim 23, wherein the channel passes completely through the compressible material.

57. (New) The appliance of Claim 23, wherein the compressible material has a thickness equal to or greater than a thickness of the other of the handle and the control received within the channel.

58. (New) The accessory of Claim 24, wherein the channel passes completely through the compressible portion.

59. (New) The accessory of Claim 24, wherein the compressible portion has a thickness equal to or greater than a thickness of the other of the handle and the control received within the channel.

60. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the opening extends completely through the compressible outer surface.

61. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the tube has a thickness greater than or equal to a thickness of the control received within the opening.

62. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein the gap extends completely through the flexible member.

63. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein the flexible member has a thickness greater than or equal to a thickness of the control received within the gap.